AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 40-43:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of linking domain knowledge to document knowledge, comprising:

rendering document knowledge as textual components with variable fields;

building an object-oriented domain model comprising domain knowledge, wherein said building an object-oriented domain model comprises organizing data input by a user into said domain model; and

linking said document knowledge to said domain knowledge, by linking said domain knowledge to document knowledge variables.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said document knowledge variables are linked to domain knowledge elements in said domain model, such that if rules and constraints are tailored or developed to maintain consistency of the domain model, a document model will be affected.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein elements in the domain model influence what appears in a rendered document.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said domain model comprises an explicit domain model which is reusable for a plurality of documents.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said object-oriented domain model is independent of any document to be rendered, said domain model being usable for any of a plurality of documents and consistency of a document model is maintained based on said linking.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of documents are configurable from the domain model.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said domain model comprises a stand-alone domain model, which is built separate and independent from a document.

Claims 8-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A system for linking domain knowledge to document knowledge, comprising:

means for rendering document knowledge as textual components with variable fields;

means for building an object-oriented domain model comprising domain knowledge, wherein said building an object-oriented domain model comprises organizing data input by a user into said domain model; and

means for loosely coupling said document knowledge to said domain knowledge, by linking said domain knowledge to document knowledge variables.

Claims 22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a computer-implemented method of linking domain knowledge to document knowledge, said method comprising:

rendering document knowledge as textual components with variable fields;

building an object-oriented domain model comprising domain knowledge, wherein said building an object-oriented domain model comprises organizing data input by a user into said domain model; and

linking said document knowledge to said domain knowledge, by linking said domain knowledge to document knowledge variables.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said domain knowledge comprises domain knowledge elements, and

said domain knowledge elements are linked to said document knowledge variables.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said domain knowledge elements are dynamically bound to said document knowledge variables through an object model access expression.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein each of said document knowledge variables is assigned an object model access expression.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

enforcing the link between said domain knowledge and said document knowledge whenever a change occurs in at least one of said object model access expression of one of said document knowledge variables and said domain model.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

evaluating the object model access expression of each of said document knowledge variables and linking the document knowledge variables to appropriate domain knowledge elements whenever new document knowledge is inputted.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

re-evaluating the object model access expression of each of said document knowledge variables whenever the domain model is reorganized.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said document knowledge variables are linked to said domain knowledge elements by selecting specific properties from the domain model by an object representation and access language,

wherein said object representation and access language (ORAL) comprises a plurality of ORAL expressions.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein if a first ORAL expression of said plurality of ORAL expressions comprises a single identifier, then the first ORAL expression corresponds to a domain knowledge element.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein if a first ORAL expression comprises an identifier pre-appended to a second ORAL expression and the second ORAL expression corresponds to a domain knowledge element, then the identifier corresponds to a property of the domain knowledge element and said first ORAL expression corresponds to the property of the domain knowledge element.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein if a first ORAL expression comprises an identifier pre-appended to a second ORAL expression and the second ORAL expression does not correspond to a domain knowledge element, then said first ORAL expression does not correspond to anything.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein if a first ORAL expression comprises an identifier and said identifier does not correspond to a domain knowledge element, then said first ORAL expression does not correspond to anything.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of generating documents, comprising:

rendering document knowledge as textual components with variable fields;

building an object-oriented domain model comprising domain knowledge, wherein said building an object-oriented domain model comprises organizing data input by a user into said domain model; and

linking said document knowledge to said domain knowledge by linking said domain knowledge to document knowledge variables.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said domain knowledge comprises domain knowledge elements, said domain knowledge elements being linked to said document knowledge variables,

wherein said domain knowledge elements are dynamically bound to said document knowledge variables through an object model access expression,

wherein said method further comprises:

enforcing the link between said domain knowledge and said document knowledge whenever a change occurs in at least one of said object model access expression of one of said document knowledge variables and said domain knowledge;

evaluating said object model access expression of said document knowledge variables and linking them to appropriate domain knowledge elements whenever new document knowledge is inputted; and

re-evaluating the object model access expression of each of said document knowledge variables whenever the domain model is reorganized,

wherein elements of said domain model are dynamically manipulated during an interactive configuration of a document.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein elements of said domain model are dynamically manipulated during an interactive configuration of a document.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein elements of said domain model are dynamically manipulated by a system software during an interactive configuration of a document.

41. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

re-using previously authored text and description of the document and domain.

42. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

explicitly defining declarative knowledge representations that enable automatic assembly of documents through automatic creation of a document assembly program.

43. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein no programming is required for document assembly.

44. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

asserting declarative links between existing knowledge structures.